

Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-10, 12-16, 18, 19, and 25-29 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Itkis (4,856,787). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-10, 12-16, 18, 19, and 25-29 are not anticipated by Itkis.

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Review of the Present Invention

The present invention comprises gaming device video display system for displaying multi-screen presentations. The system comprises a plurality of gaming devices, a plurality of video displays, and a plurality of display controllers.

10 Each gaming device is adapted to allow a player to place wagers and play a wagering game. In addition, each gaming device is adapted to select a multi-screen presentation and transmit a request for a multi-screen presentation.

The plurality of video displays are positioned in close relative proximity to allow a video presentation to be displayed using the plurality of video displays. Each video display is adapted
15 to display a video presentation, a portion of the video presentation being displayed on each of the video displays.

Each video display controller is in communication with a gaming device, a video display, and other video display controllers. Each video display is adapted to receive requests for multi-screen presentations from the gaming device with which it is in communication and adapted to
20 operate the video display with which it is in communication to present a portion of a multi-screen presentation. The video display controllers being adapted to coordinate multi-screen presentations among the video display controllers.

One of the advantages of the present invention is that a plurality of video display devices can be used to present a single integrated video presentation. Although gaming devices are often

set side-by-side on a casino floor, the prior art has failed to link or combine the display devices on a number of gaming devices. What has long been needed is a means for combining the video displays on a number of gaming devices to present a single integrated presentation. By utilizing a plurality of video displays, it is possible to present much larger and more interesting
5 presentations. For example, in the prior art, a video display on a single machine may be used to present an animated bonus display. However, because the display is only on one screen, the presentation is small and it can only be seen by the player and those standing immediately behind the player. If video displays on several gaming devices are used to display the presentation, it is possible to view the presentation from across the room. Therefore, more people see the display
10 and more people are attracted to the gaming devices.

Review of Itkis

Itkis appears to disclose a game network comprising a master game device 1 interconnected with slave game devices 7 via a communication network 6. Each slave game
15 device comprises a keypad 8 and display 9. Display devices appear to display information. Figure 1 appears to disclose the hardware architecture of the reference.

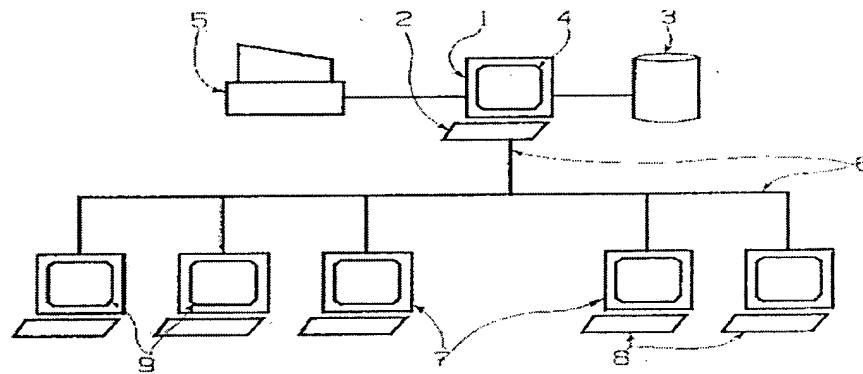


FIG. 1

5 However, Itkis does not disclose a means or method for presenting a single integrated multi-screen video presentation. Players are intended to look only at the display device in front of them. Any presentation is intended to be viewed on a single screen. Figure 4 appears to disclose a display a screen presentation of the reference.

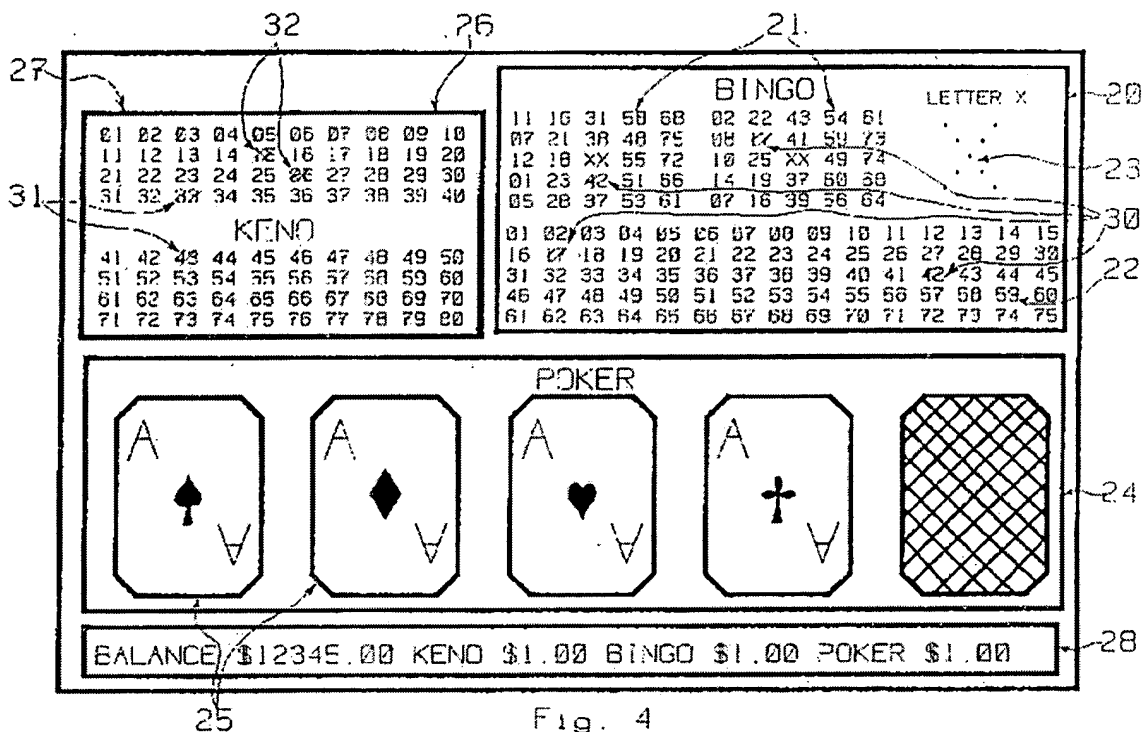


Fig. 4

As seen in Figure 4 of Itkis, all the information necessary for the presentation is displayed on one screen. Although more than one game is displayed, all the games are displayed on one screen. Therefore, Itkis does not disclose, teach, or suggest a multi-screen presentation.

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35 USC §102(b) Rejections

As stated by the Federal Circuit, anticipation under 35 USC §102(b) requires the presence, in a single prior art reference, of each and every element of the claimed invention.

arranged as in the claim. *Lindermann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist and Derrick Co.*, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Claim 1

5 Claim 1 is provided here for the convenience of the examiner. Emphasis has been added to help indicate the differences between the claimed elements and the cited reference.

1. A gaming device video display system for displaying multi-screen presentations, the system comprising:

10 (A) a plurality of gaming devices, each gaming device being adapted to allow a player to play a wagering game, each gaming device being further adapted to **select a multi-screen presentation and transmit a request for a multi-screen presentation;**

15 (B) a plurality of video displays, each video display being adapted to display a video presentation, the video displays being positioned in close relative proximity to allow a video presentation to be displayed using the plurality of video displays, **a portion of the video presentation being displayed on each of the video displays, wherein the video presentation appears to be an integrated, multi-screen presentation;** and

20 (C) a plurality of video display controllers, each video display controller being in communication with a gaming device, a video display, and other video display controllers, each video display being adapted to receive requests for multi-screen presentations from the gaming device with which it is in communication, the plurality of video display controllers being adapted to coordinate multi-screen

presentations among the video display controllers, each video display controller being adapted to operate the video display with which it is in communication to present a portion of a multi-screen presentation.

5 Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter claimed in claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Itkis. Starting with the preamble, claim 1 is directed to “a **system for displaying multi-screen presentations.**” A multi-screen presentation is a presentation that utilizes multiple screens.

 Itkis is not intended to display a multi-screen presentation. Each display is intended to be
10 viewed on only one screen and the screens are intended to be viewed independently. Moreover, if two or more screens are viewed together, the viewer would not see an integrated presentation. Therefore, Itkis does not disclose, teach, or suggest a multi-screen presentation.

 Claim 1 also recites “a plurality of gaming devices ... adapted to **select a multi-screen presentation and transmit a request for multi-screen presentation.**” The gaming devices in
15 Itkis, on the other hand, are not adapted to select a multi-screen presentation. The entire reference is devoid of any suggestion to provide a multi-screen presentation. The only presentations disclosed, such as a card game or a bingo game, are intended to be viewed on a single screen.

 Claim 1 also recites “a plurality of video displays..., **the video displays being**
20 **positioned in close relative proximity to allow a video presentation to be displayed using the plurality of video displays, a portion of the video presentation being displayed on each of the video displays, wherein the video presentation appears to be an integrated, multi-screen presentation...**” Itkis, on the other hand, does not disclose a plurality of video displays that are capable of displaying a multi-screen presentation. As discussed above, Itkis only discloses

displaying the status of the games being played and a menu of game selections. The specification is devoid of any suggestion to provide a multi-screen presentation. The only information displayed in Itkis is displayed on a single video screen.

Next, claim 1 recites “a plurality of video display controllers, each video display
5 controller being in communication with a gaming device, a video display, and other video display controllers...” The Office states that Itkis discloses a plurality of video display controllers (8) communicating with gaming device and video displays. Reference number 8, in fact, refers to keypads connected to the slave game devices. The keypads are for a player to
operate the slave gaming device by entering his or her commands such as a wager value (2:66,
10 3:1-2).

The keypads may cause a change in the displays of the slave game devices, but the keypads do not generate video presentations on the displays unlike the video display controller of the present invention. Thus, Itkis does not disclose a plurality of video display controllers similar to the video display controllers of the present invention.

15 Even if the keypads were controllers, Itkis would not achieve the present invention. The present invention discloses a plurality of video display controllers, not only communicating with gaming device and video displays, but also communicating with other video display controllers. This allows the present invention to present and “coordinate multi-screen presentations among the video display controllers.” Itkis, on the other hand, does not disclose controllers or other
20 means for presenting and coordinating multi-screen presentations.

Since Itkis fails to disclose all of the elements in claim 1, the Office has not presented a single prior art reference disclosing each and every element of the claim invention as required by the Federal Circuit. Therefore, claim 1 and each of its dependent claims is patentable. Withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection on claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 9

Claim 9 is directed to a method of displaying a video presentation. Claim 9 is repeated here for the convenience of the Examiner.

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9. A method of displaying a video presentation for use with wagering devices, the method comprising:

(A) providing at least one wagering device, the wagering device being adapted to operate a wagering game;

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(B) providing a plurality of video displays, the video displays being adapted to display a video presentation;

(C) providing a video presentation;

(D) **dividing the video presentation into a plurality of screen segments;**

(E) **displaying a different screen segment of the video presentation on each video**

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display, wherein the segments of the video presentation, when viewed as a whole, appear as an integrated video presentation.

Itkis fails to disclose, teach, or suggest dividing a video presentation into a plurality of screen segments and displaying a different screen segment of the video presentation on each video display, wherein the segments of the video presentation, when viewed as a whole, appear as an integrated video presentation. The reference is simply devoid of any suggestion to divide a video presentation into a plurality of screen segments. Furthermore, if a person were to view each of the displays of Itkis at the same time, whatever was displayed would not appear as an integrated video presentation.

Since Itkis fails to disclose, teach, or even suggest all of the elements of claim 9, claim 9 is patentable.

Dependent claims 10-14, which depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 9 and incorporate all the limitations of claim 9, also include additional limitations which are not shown or suggested by the prior art. For these reasons, and for the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 10-14 patentably distinguish over Itkis. Withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 15

Claim 15 is directed to a gaming device. Claim 15 is repeated here for the convenience of the examiner.

15. A gaming device, comprising:

- (A) at least one video display, the video display being adapted to display a video presentation;
- (B) a video display controller in communication with the video display, the video display controller being adapted to drive the video display and being adapted to communicate with other video display controllers;
- (C) a game controller, the game controller being adapted to operate a wagering game;
- (D) **a game device controller in communication with the video display controller and the game controller; the gaming device controller being adapted to initiate a multi-screen presentation.**

Claim 15 recites a game device controller in communication with the video display

controller and the game controller; the gaming device controller being adapted to initiate a multi-screen presentation. As discussed above, Itkis fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a multi-screen presentation. Therefore, any controller disclosed in Itkis would not be capable of initiating a multi-screen presentation. Therefore, claim 15 and each of its dependent claims is patentable
5 over the cited reference. Withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

Claim 25

Claim 25 is directed to a system for displaying a multi-screen presentation. Claim 25 is
10 provided below for the convenience of the Examiner.

25. A system for displaying multi-screen presentations in association with a wagering game, the system comprising:

(A) means for operating a wagering game;

15 (B) **means for coordinating a display of a multi-screen video presentation;**

(C) video display means for displaying a video presentation;

(D) **means for displaying the multi-screen video presentation on the video displays, wherein the multi-screen video presentation appears to be a single integrated presentation.**

20 Itkis fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least elements (B) and (D) of claim 25. Itkis does not disclose a means for coordinating a display of a multi-screen video presentation. Since Itkis does not contemplate a multi-screen presentation, Itkis does not contemplate a means for coordinating a multi-screen presentation. Furthermore, Itkis does not disclose means for

displaying the multi-screen video presentation on the video displays, wherein the multi-screen video presentation appears to be a single integrated presentation. As discussed above, Itkis merely discloses presentations that are intended to be viewed on a single screen. If one were to view two or more screens at once, one would not see a single integrated presentation.

5 Since Itkis fails disclose the claimed elements, claim 25 and each of its dependent claims are patentable. Withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection of claim 25 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2-8, 16-19, and 26-29, which depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 15, and 25 and incorporate all the limitations of claims 1, 15, and 25, also include additional limitations which are not shown or suggested by the prior art. Thus, for these reasons, and for the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-8, 16-19, and 26-29 patentably distinguish over Itkis. Withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection on these claims is respectfully requested.

15 **Rejections Under 35 USC §103**

Claims 11, 17, and 20-24 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Itkis and in view of Falciglia (5,971,849). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11, 17, and 20-24 are not obvious over Itkis and in view of Falciglia for the following reasons.

There is no suggestion, motivation, or teaching to combine the references.

With regard to the proposed combinations of Itkis and Falciglia, it is well settled that in order for any prior art references to be validly combined for use in a prior art §103 rejection, the

references themselves (or some other prior art) must suggest that they be combined. As was stated in *In re Sernaker*, 217 U.S.P.Q. 1, 6 (C.A.F.C. 1983):

“[P]rior art references in combination do not make an invention obvious unless something in the prior art references would suggest the advantage to be derived from combining their teachings.”

That the suggestion to combine the references should not come from the applicant was forcefully stated in *Orthopedic Equipment Co. v. United States*, 217 U.S.P.Q. 193, 199 (CAFC 1983):

“It is wrong to use the patent in suit [here the patent application] as a guide through the maze of prior art references, combining the right references in the right way to achieve the result of the claims in suit [here the claims pending].

In line with these decisions, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences stated in *Ex parte Levengood*, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (P.T.O.B.A.& I. 1993):

“In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, it is necessary for the examiner to present evidence, preferably in the form of some teaching, suggestion, incentive or inference in the applied prior art, or in the form of generally available knowledge, that one having ordinary skill in the art would have been led to combine the relevant teachings of the applied references in the proposed manner to arrive at the claimed invention... That which is within the capabilities of one skilled in the art is not synonymous with obviousness... That one can reconstruct and/or explain the theoretical mechanism of an invention by means of logic and sound scientific reasoning does not afford the basis for an obviousness conclusion unless that logic and reasoning also

supplies sufficient impetus to have led one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the references to make the claimed invention...Our reviewing courts have often advised the Patent and Trademark Office that it can satisfy the burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness only by showing some objective teaching in either the prior art, or knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, that 'would lead' that individual 'to combine the relevant teachings of the references.'...**Accordingly, an examiner cannot establish obviousness by locating references which describe various aspects of a patent applicant's invention without also providing evidence of the motivating force which would impel one skilled in the art to do what the patent applicant has done.**" (emphasis added)

Turning now to the cited references, Itkis and Falciglia are devoid of any suggestion, either express or implied, to combine these references. A thorough examination of the references reveals no express or implied suggestion, motivation, or teaching to combine the references. Furthermore, the references are individually complete references that teach different solutions to entirely different problems.

Itkis is completely devoid of any reference to allow the gaming device to be activated during a bonus event. Nothing in Itkis suggests combining Itkis with a free spin icon, which appears to be disclosed by Falciglia.

Both Itkis and Falciglia are completely devoid of any suggestion to provide a video display system for allowing a video presentation to be displayed in segments in a plurality of video displays wherein the video presentation appears to be an integrated, multi-screen presentation. Both references are limited to stand alone display systems, and are thus unable to display segments of a video presentation from one display system to another. Both references

are limited to showing a display on multiple windows in one screen, but not in a plurality of screens. There is nothing in Itkis or Falciglia that would suggest combining Itkis and/or Falciglia to provide a video display system with multi-screen presentation capability.

Furthermore, the Office has failed to cite any portion of either reference that would
5 provide a suggestion to combine. The rejection in the Office Action recites a laundry list of elements that are allegedly found in the references. However, the Office Action does not provide a suggestion to combine. Therefore, in view of the extensive and well-established body of law cited above, the present invention would not be obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art.

**References teach away because they are not intended to enlarge a picture for a variety of
10 audiences to see.**

Itkis presents an opportunity for players: to pool their resources and share the benefits of their success, to combine their individual slave game device into a temporary alliance, or to fight against each other, to play the same card game against the card dealer. (5:44-60) Similarly, Facligia provides an opportunity for players to play a poker-style game among a plurality of
15 players. Facligia further provides a chat room feature for interactive text transactions between players before, during, and after play. (2:1-5)

Rather than being intended to provide opportunity for players to interact, the present invention is intended to enlarge a picture to allow a larger group of audiences, including non-players, to see. Thus, upon reading Itkis and Facligia, a person of ordinary skill, who is trying to
20 enlarge a picture for a larger group of audiences to see, would diverge from the path Itkis and

Facligia took because these references do not teach how to enlarge a picture. Accordingly, the present invention should not be obvious in light of these references.

Even if Itkis and Facligia were combined, the combination would not result in the present invention.

5 “To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.” *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, MPEP §2143.03.

As discussed in the above response to the 35 USC 102(b) rejection, Itkis does not disclose each and every element of the claim invention. Similarly, Facligia does not disclose
10 each and every element of the claim invention. Facligia does not disclose a plurality of video displays adapted to display a portion of a video presentation in a manner wherein the video presentation appears to be integrated, multi-screen presentation. Facligia appears to disclose a display screen with multiple windows including a window for a chat room, a query window, and a window for a selection menu. Facligia also does not disclose a plurality of video display
15 controllers in communication with each other.

Because Itkis and Facligia do not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, the combination of Itkis and Facligia do not produce a video display system able to synchronously present an entire video presentation over a plurality of video displays. Therefore, the resulting combination would not achieve a video display device like that of the present
20 invention even if these references were combined in the manner suggested by the Office.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11, 17, and 20-24 are not obvious over Itkis and in view of Falciglia. Withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Even if Itkis and Falciglia were combined, the combination would not accomplish the

5 advantages rendered by the claimed invention.

One advantage rendered by the claimed invention is that it provides a replacement for large video displays. Large video displays can be very effective in entertaining and attracting players. However, they take a large amount of space that would otherwise be occupied by income producing gaming devices. With the claimed invention, an equally large video display is
10 provided without taking a large amount of space.

Another advantage rendered by the claimed invention is that it provides means for a larger audience to view a video presentation. Although prior art gaming devices can be seen by the players that are playing them, it is very difficult for non-players to view the video displays. With the claimed invention, both players and non-players whether proximately or remotely
15 positioned to the gaming devices, can enjoy the video presentation.

The combination of Falciglia and Itkis, on the other hand, do not enlarge the size of a conventional video display. The combination of the above references results in the multiplication of the number of windows within a display system. Multiplying the number of windows within a display does not enlarge the size of a picture. It merely replicates the same
20 small picture in multiple screens. A remotely positioned audience or a non-player not standing immediately behind the player would still have difficulty in seeing the details of the picture. Moreover, a large amount of space is required to accommodate the plurality of display systems. Accordingly, the combination of Falciglia and Itkis does not accomplish the advantages rendered

by the claimed invention. Therefore, the present invention should not be obvious in light of these references.

CONCLUSION

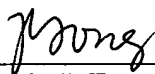
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For all of the above reasons, the applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the examiner has any questions regarding the application or this response, the examiner is encouraged to call the applicant's agent, Rolando J. Tong, at (775) 826-6160.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Rolando J. Tong, Agent for Applicant(s)
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CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE IN AMENDMENT A

IN THE SPECIFICATION

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Page 15, First Paragraph was amended to:

Once the presentation and the outcome are determined, GDC 46 determines if the presentation selected requires multi-screen privileges 106. The out[]come of this step may
10 depend on external factors. For example, if other video displays will be busy for a predefined period, GDC 46 may be programmed to play a single screen presentation rather than have the player wait for the multi-screen presentation. It may also be the case that other video displays are not available because of a malfunction or routine maintenance.

15 IN THE CLAIMS

9. (Once amended) A method of displaying a video presentation for use with wagering devices, the method comprising:

- (A) providing at least one wagering device, the wagering device being adapted to
20 operate a wagering game;
- (B) providing a plurality of video displays, the video displays being adapted to display a video presentation;
- (C) providing a video presentation;
- (D) dividing the video presentation into a plurality of screen segments; and
- 25 (E) displaying a different screen segment of the video presentation on each video display, wherein the segments of the video presentation, when viewed as a whole, appear as an integrated video presentation.